

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 5. (Canceled)

1 6. (Currently amended): A storage system comprising:
2 a set of plural disk drive units;
3 a plurality of controllers coupled to at least one computer via a network; and
4 a connection unit connected between said set of plural disk drive units and said
5 plurality of controllers, said connection unit configured such that any of said controllers can
6 communicate with any of said disk drive units,
7 wherein each of said plurality of controllers comprises:
8 _____ a first circuit in data communication with at least one computer; and
9 _____ a second circuit in data communication with said disk drive units via said
10 connection unit,
11 wherein one of said plurality of controllers is a disk controller comprising a first
12 circuit accepting access from a computer through a block I/O interface, and another one of said
13 plurality of controllers is a file server comprising a first circuit accepting access from a computer
14 through a file I/O interface,
15 wherein some of said plural disk drive units holds identification information
16 identifying at least one of said plurality of controllers, and each of said plurality of controllers
17 determines which of said plural disk drive units is accessible based on the identification
18 information held in each of said plural disk drive units.

7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 7-6 wherein a
2 second circuit of each of said plurality of controllers is a fibre channel controller.

9 and 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 10-6 wherein
2 ~~each~~some of said plural disk drive units holds said identification information in a specific
3 storage area in the disk drive unit.

1 12. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 11 wherein
2 each of said plurality of controllers searches identification information in ~~a~~the specific storage
3 area in ~~each~~some of said plural disk drive units, and determines which of said plural disk drive
4 units is accessible based on the detected identification information.

1 13. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 12 further
2 comprising a disk pool management unit coupled to said plural disk drive units and a
3 management console, wherein said disk pool management unit stores identification information
4 identifying at least one of said plurality of controllers into ~~a~~the specific storage area in ~~each~~
5 some of said plural disk drive units based on an input from said management console.

1 14. (Previously presented): A storage system according to claim 12 wherein
2 one of said plurality of controllers is a disk controller comprising a first circuit accepting an
3 access through a block I/O interface, and another one of said plurality of controllers is a file
4 server comprising a first circuit accepting an access through a file I/O interface.

1 15. (Previously presented): A storage system according to claim 12 wherein
2 each of said plurality of controllers performs the determination during system initialization.

16. (Canceled)